## STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

130 State Capitol Denver, Colorado 80203-1792 Phone: (303) 866-2087



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 3, 2003

**Contact: Garrett Groves** 

(303) 866-3125

## NORTON TO ATTEND COLORADO COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS QUARTERLY MEETING

Including a tour of the Animas-La Plata Water Project Cultural Resources Field Office

(DURANGO) – Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton will chair a quarterly meeting of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, July 9 – 10, in Durango. Also scheduled is a tour of the Cultural Resources Field Office and construction site for the Animas-La Plata (ALP) Water Project, an excavation of an archaeological site and a reinterment site associated with the water project.

The Commission meeting agenda will include an update on the Four Corners Interpretive Center, a Southern Ute Air Quality update, a discussion about American Indian Heritage Month in November and the annual appointment of new at-large representatives. Commission members from the Ute Tribes and from state agencies will also provide comments on progress with tribal development, economic development and on general issues concerning Native Americans in Colorado.

There are eleven members of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, including the Lieutenant Governor, the executive directors of the department of human services, public health and environment, natural resources and local affairs; two official representatives each from Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes and two at-large members who were selected by the commission. Other state agencies serve as ex-officio members to provide advice and guidelines on the agencies' federal or state obligations affecting American Indians.

For more information please contact Karen Wilde Rogers at (303) 866.3027 or at <u>Karen.Wilde-Rogers@state.co.us</u>.

In 1976, the Colorado General Assembly created, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. It was designed to be the official liaison between the two Ute Tribes and the State of Colorado. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with the two Ute Indian Tribes in Colorado and the offreservation American Indian people who live in Colorado.

###